



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

**Monday, June 3, 2013**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-2718)

**Attachments:**    [AUDIO](#)

Present:            Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman,  
Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen,  
Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Daphne Ng,  
Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin  
and Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW

Excused:           Chair Geneva Berger, Commissioner Patricia Curry,  
Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq. and Commissioner Martha  
Trevino-Powell

Call to Order. (13-2515)

**The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Introduction of June 3, 2013 Meeting attendees. (13-2516)

**Self-introductions were made.**

2. Approval of the June 3, 2013 Meeting Agenda. (13-2517)

**On motion of Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, unanimously carried, (Chair Berger, Commissioners Curry, Olivas and Trevino Powell being absent), this item was approved. Commissioners Biondi and Rudnick were not present during the vote taken for this item.**

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of May 20, 2013. (13-2518)

**On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, unanimously carried, (Chair Berger, Commissioners Curry, Olivas and Trevino Powell being absent), this item was approved. Commissioners Biondi and Rudnick were not present during the vote taken for this item.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

4. Chair's report for June 3, 2013 by Geneva Berger, Chair. (13-2519)

**Vice Chair Kleinberg reported the following:**

- **On June 18, 2013, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky will present a five-signature scroll to Commissioner Biondi, honoring her for her work on behalf of youth in the County Probation system; her work with the Children's Commission and with many other community organizations including the Children's Defense Fund, United Friends of the Children, and the Bloom Advisory Committee of the California Community Foundation. Commissioner Biondi also serves on the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. On May 9, 2013, Commissioner Biondi received the Janet Harris Juvenile Justice Advocate Award from Loyola Law School.**

**The Commission congratulated Commissioner Biondi for her past and continuing service to youth.**

**Commissioner Biondi added that Camp David Gonzalez (CAMP) will also be honored for their success in the Solar Cup competition sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. For the past three years, under the leadership of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Ty Kastendiek, a science teacher of the David Gonzales High School, the school has engaged members of the science classes in a boat building contest. The Gonzales Team finished 6th overall out of 42 schools competing this year. One of the students produced an animated Public Service Announcement (PSA) on water conservation that won first place in the PSA competition out of 42 schools. The Board will present the Camp, the science teacher, and the student who produced the PSA with scrolls.**

- **The Department of Mental Health is holding its Client Congress Forum 2013 "Many Voices – One Vision" on Friday, June 28, 2013 at the**

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Cathedral Plaza Center, located at 555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles. Registration forms are available from staff. The event is on a first come first served basis until capacity is reached. Forum registration fee is \$20.

- The Executive Office is hosting the New Commissioner Orientation on Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. for this quarter. If Commissioners are interested in attending, please contact staff.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

5. DCFS Director's report for June 3, 2013 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS (13-2522)

Director Browning reported the following:

- The recent child fatality in Palmdale is very tragic and should not have happened. Some documents associated with the fatality case may become available under the SB 39 provision. Due to confidentiality provisions, only certain information can be shared. DCFS' investigation of the case started last week.

When a child fatality occurs while the child is under DCFS supervision, the available data found in the Child Welfare Services / Case Management System (CWS/CMS) is evaluated to make an immediate determination whether the staff involved in that child's case should be pulled off the line of duty to further investigate whether staff involvement could have prevented the fatality. Additionally, a separate process is conducted to determine whether staff members' actions were in violation of DCFS Policy or in accordance with practice. Upon determination, disciplinary action is taken when warranted. An update will be provided to the Board of Supervisors identifying the findings of the Palmdale investigation.

- There is a motion on the June 4, 2013, Board's agenda ([Item No. 24](#)), allowing two DCFS employees to temporarily relocate to Sacramento to assist the State with the development of the new CWS/CMS with the understanding that this new system will meet a large jurisdiction's needs.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

### **III. PRESENTATION**

6. Presentation on issues related to young children in care:

- Diane Wagner, Chief, DCFS Adoptions & Permanency Resources Division/Young Children In Care Workgroup
- Dr. Richard Cohen, Director, Project ABC, Children's Institute Inc.
- Angela Vazquez, Advancement Project
- Jacquelyn McCroskey, Chair, Policy Roundtable for Child Care (13-2526)

**Ms. McCroskey opened the presentation with a short video titled, “*Building Adult Capabilities to Improve Child Outcomes: A Theory of Change*” found on the Harvard University, Center on the Developing Child website. This 5-minute video depicts a theory of change from the Frontiers of the Innovation community for achieving breakthrough outcomes for vulnerable children and families. It describes the need to focus on building the capabilities of caregivers and strengthening the communities that together form the environment of relationships essential to children's lifelong learning, health, and behavior.**

**Ms. Wagner distributed a data sheet titled, Young Children in Care Fact Sheet, that includes data findings for fiscal year's 2009/10 and 2010/11 and reported the following:**

- Children of color enter DCFS at much higher rates than white children.
- The number one reason for children entering the system was general neglect at 55.95% for the 2010/11 year.
- Of the zero to five population, Hispanic children were the highest in care at 57%.
- The majority of the zero to five population in DCFS were under the age of one at the time of entry.
- Two is the average number of placements for children under five who entered care.
- 10% of mothers were under the age of 18 when they gave birth to their first child.

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- 35% of children entering the system had mothers that gave birth to their first child under the age of 21.
  - 68% of parents had mental health issues and 75% had substance abuse problems.
  - 18.3% of youth who emancipate entered care under the age of three.
  - As a result of the Young Children in Care Workgroup's recommendations, a DCFS Strategic Plan Objective was developed that addresses the zero to five population. The other Strategic Plan Workgroups have been provided these recommendations.

Dr. Cohen reported the following:

- Project ABC received funding support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) through an Early Childhood Mental Health System of Care grant with a focus on children who are in the child welfare system or are at-risk of entering the child welfare system.
- A great percentage of children referred to Project ABC come from DCFS referrals or through the Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) process.
- Currently there is only an emerging system for ensuring that children are referred to Early Care and Education Programs.
- It is noteworthy that the Center for the Study of Social Policy, Strengthening Families movement began in Early Care and Education Centers.
- A benefit of Early Care and Education Centers is that there is an opportunity to observe the interactions between the parent or caregiver and the child during the morning drop off and afternoon pick up. This structure provides a collaboration that supports DCFS in moving towards reunification.
- At this time, there are no more six-year grants available; only one-year grants are available.

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- Training is a major area that Project ABC will focus on. Training was offered at the Torrance DCFS office. DCFS staff has expressed high interest in the training.
  - Integrated and coordinated support systems are critical in preventing children ages zero to five from reentering care.

Ms. McCroskey added that a lot of people outside the child welfare system are working to improve the systems so that parents and children are served in the most effective way. Advancement Project took on the challenge of identifying existing policy barriers to progressing in this area.

Ms. Vazquez reported the following:

- Advancement Project approached the work of identifying policy barriers with a background in early care and education and the intent to increase access for kids from vulnerable populations including low income, disadvantaged communities and children under DCFS care.
- A conservative estimate of 12.8% or 1,509 of the DCFS caseload under age five attended public Early Care and Education programs, including Head Start/Early Head Start and subsidized child care/preschool in 2011.
- A majority of families involved in DCFS have been or are receiving CalWORKS with 60-87%, according to estimates of overlapping caseloads.
- High-quality early education programs are designed to address the following risk factors children in the child welfare system and children from low income families and disadvantaged communities are potentially faced with:
  - Developmental delays
  - Poor academic success
  - Socio-emotional competencies & well-being
  - Negative life outcomes, including delinquency/criminal behavior, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, homelessness.
- The children known to child welfare agencies are an easily identifiable population who could most benefit from early intervention and support services, such as high-quality early care and education. High-quality early learning programs meet the three goals of child welfare which are, safety, permanency and well-being in similar ways.

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- The effects of toxic stress are most apparent in children under age five in the child welfare system. Up to 50% of these children are more likely to have developmental delays.
  - Early Care and Education rates are low for maltreated children with only 2.13% of children receiving state subsidized services in the County going to children identified as being at-risk for abuse and neglect or have been abused or neglected. 131 children were served outside of DCFS's state-contracted child care voucher program in October 2011. This number is extremely low in comparison to the approximation of 50,000 children served overall in the County through State subsidies. Many policy and practice barriers are attributed for the low numbers. Some of these barriers include:
    - Education and developmental needs for the really young children are not required to be assessed because they are not in school.
    - Families may be receiving income based child care or developmental services that are not tracking abuse or neglect.
    - There are many mixed service delivery systems that result in conflicting and confusing eligibility determination processes across Federal and State-subsidized programs for abused/neglected children.
    - Program quality variability and the overall shortage of high quality early learning spaces in California.

Ms. McCroskey distributed a document titled, *Joint Working Group – Commission for Children and Families and Policy Roundtable for Child Care* and explained that through this short-term Workgroup, a set of key recommendations were developed (for a detailed list of recommendations see attachment below).

In addition, Lauri Halderman, Senior Program Coordinator at CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children and lead on the CASA Early Childhood Project, reported the following:

- CASA has implemented an Early Childhood Initiative Training that brought up many of the issues addressed by today's presenters. The 12-hour training combines online learning with in-class presentations and discussion for volunteers and stakeholders, covering topics such as attachments and the adverse effects of toxic stress on the brain and physical development. Many CASA offices have been trained on the Early Childhood Project. It has been a little more challenging to get children into early childhood education.

**Rosalee Villalobos, CASA Advocacy Program Director added that CASA Los Angeles currently has approximately 360 active volunteers and 720 kids have been served. The Court Assistance Program serves approximately 7,000 kids annually.**

**After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, unanimously carried, (Chair Berger, Commissioners Curry, Olivas and Trevino Powell being absent), the Commission received the following Joint Workgroup's recommendations and agreed to adopt the recommendations as part of the Commission's ongoing efforts.**

**Recommendations:**

- 1. The Commission on Children and Families should continue to highlight the need to better serve young children by developing partnerships with key institutions that can assist families, kin and caregivers to enroll children in high quality child care and development services.**
- 2. The Policy Roundtable for Child Care and the Office of Child Care should work with DCFS to develop policy and practice supports to ensure that parents, foster parents and kinship caregivers know about and are referred to all available types of subsidized child care (e.g., Head Start/Early Head Start, state contracted child care programs LAUP)**
- 3. DCFS should explore the possibility of adding responsibility for assessment of early care and education needs to contract requirements for community based service providers serving families with young children.**
- 4. DCFS should request assistance from First 5 LA to:**
  - a) Assess best practices in other jurisdictions and analyze options in LA County that would provide access to all available early care and education options in a more systematic manner.**
  - b) Assess the value added by two generation approaches that link efforts to enroll young children in early care and education programs while providing opportunities for their parents/caregivers to participate in evidence based parenting programs.**



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- c) **Make recommendations on key performance indicators to track participation of young children in early care and education programs that could be used by DCFS regional office to track progress in improving child and family well being**

**Attachments:** [Young Children In Care Fact Sheet DCFS](#)

[Advancement Project – Early Care & Education](#)  
[DCFS Early Education Referral & Enrollment – 2012 Program Year](#)  
[Completion of DCFS Referral Process for Early Care & Education](#)  
[Joint Working Group recommendations](#)  
[Advancement Project Presentation](#)  
[Policy Brief - ECE Access for Maltreated Children in LA County](#)

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **Matters Not Posted**

7. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-2521)

**There were none.**

##### **Announcements**

8. Announcements for the meeting of June 3, 2013. (13-2523)

**Commissioner Sorkin announced that Celebration '13 - Honoring the Academic Achievements of Foster Youth will be held on June 4, 2013 at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.**

##### **Public Comment**

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-2524)

**No members of the public addressed the Commission.**

##### **Adjournment**

10. Adjournment of the meeting of June 3, 2013. (13-2525)

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.**